

From: John Russell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 9:14pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

• John Russell •
• 14763 West Trevino Drive •
• Goodyear, AZ 85338 •

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to express my opposition to the antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft. Although I realize that the lawsuit is no longer an issue, what is before your department is the court mediated settlement that can end this debacle. Millions of taxpayer dollars have been used in what essentially is a needless persecution of a competitive company. What is before your department is an exhaustive settlement that has terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were originally at issue in the litigation. Microsoft has agreed to these terms in the interest of servicing the public good and allowing for a fair, agreeable end to this process.

This settlement, which has been reached by the Department of Justice, and approved by nine of the participating states, contains several provisions that extend significant restrictions and changes to how Microsoft does business. The settlement requires Microsoft to improve its relationship with computer and software manufacturers, by ensuring that Microsoft will not retaliate against manufacturers who ship non-Microsoft products and to create uniform pricing, allowing consumers to get the best price for the product. Additionally, the agreement allows any of Microsoft's competitors to file a claim against Microsoft in federal court if they believe that any part of the settlement has been violated, thereby forcing Microsoft to be in contempt of court.

I strongly urge the Department of Justice to view this settlement as having served the public interest and to end this litigation. Nine states have approved this, and with the federal government's leadership, this process may finally be over. In the overall public interest, please cease any further action at the federal level on this matter.

Sincerely,

John Russell